DNA

STORY AND ART BY RACHEL UILDRIKS

SEQUENCE: ZERO

SEGMENT: TOOTH

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OW, DON'T!!

LET GO, RIGEL!

JUST SAY THE WORD "STOP" AND I WILL.

O-OKAY THEN, THTOP!

HEH.

THAT WAS A GOOD TRY.

LIKE, IT WAS *REALLY* CLOSE TO WHAT I ASKED FOR.

BUT! THERE'S JUST ONE *LITTLE* PROBLEM.

I DON'T SPEAK *LISP.*

WHEN I GET FREE, I'M GONNA—

YOU'RE GONNA EAT DIRT.

SO.

YOUR BEST FRIEND AND YOUR LITTLE BROTHER ARE BEING *JERKS.*

ARE YOU GONNA DO ANYTHING?

MMM.

CYGNUS!

I JUST DON'T WANT THEM TO BE MAD AT ME.

I'M GONNA GO GET JAY.

SAY SIRIUS'S NAME.

I-I CAN'T. LET ME GO.

SAY IT, OR I'LL PUSH YOU IN THE MUD.

Y-YOU CAN'T, I-I CAN'T GET IN MORE TROUBLE, H-HE!

CALL YOURSELF STUPID, THEN.

I'M THTUPID, N-NOW LET ME GO!!

BUT I ALREADY SAID I DON'T SPEAK LISP.

"THTUPID" ISN'T A WORD.

YOU'RE *SO* STUPID, YOU CAN'T EVEN SAY THE WORD "STUPID." THAT'S REALLY SAD.

AND YOU NEVER SAID "SIRIUS" SO GUESS WHERE *YOU'RE* GOING?

NO!

YOU'RE A *REALLY* CRAPPY FRIEND, YOU CAN'T EVEN SAY HIS NAME.

I WOULDN'T WANT *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T SAY *MY* NAME.

SO I GUESS IT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU MY NAME DOESN'T HAVE AN "S" IN IT.

HEY, LEON, C'MON!

I DON'T WANT SIRIUS TO GET AWAY.

YOU'RE LIKE, TWICE HIS SIZE AND I DUMPED WATER ALL OVER HIM. IT SHOULDN'T BE *THAT* HARD TO HOLD HIM STILL.

I CAN SEE YOU FROM HERE.

UGH, WHATEVER.

OH, GEEZ...

SPLOSH!

OKAY, RIGEL, YOU'RE DONE NOW, RIGHT?

TCH. NO.

EAT THE MUD.

WHAT!?

YOU HEARD ME. EAT IT, OR YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED IN

Y-YOU EAT IT, YOU FAT JERK.

No
No
OH No
OH No
No
No
No
No
OH No
No
R-RIGEL, I THINK YOU'RE TAKING IT A *LITTLE* FAR NOW.
SHUT UP.

STOP IT, HE CAN'T BREATHE LIKE THAT, LET HIM GO!!

THAT'S THE POINT, IDIOT.

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!!

NO! GET OFF HIM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

LEON, SHUT HIM UP AGAIN.

YOU SAID HE WAS JUST PUSHING HIM AROUND.

HE *WAS!*

IT GOT *WORSE!*

DO SOMETHING!

IN A SEC.

SEE?!

OUR CARETAKER DOESN'T EVEN CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU!

OKAY, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN, IT'S TIME TO GET OFF HIM.

MUD'S OFF-LIMITS, YOU KNOW THAT.

YOU'RE KIDDING.

NOPE. MOVE IT, RIGEL.

YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK I WAS GONNA LET YOU *DROWN* THE KID, DID YOU?

HE WAS *EXPENSIVE*. I'D GET *FIRED*!

I SORT OF *LIVE HERE*, I'D LIKE FOR THAT TO *NOT* BE A THING.

C'MON, YOU LITTLE IDIOT, BEING *TRAUMATIZED* DOESN'T MEAN THE RULES SUDDENLY CHANGE.

WHHHHHHHHH

WELL, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT MOVING?

STOP EXAGGERATING AND GET UP!

I SHOULD'VE JUST HANDLED THIS ON MY OWN.

LEON, LET SIRIUS GO NOW.

RRRRRRAAR

RRRRRRRRRRAAR

WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU!?

D'YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT'S GONNA BE TO EXPLAIN ALL THIS!?

NO BITING, SIRIUS!!

NO KICKING, JAY!!

OH

WOW.
I FUCKED UP

.. UH,
H-HEY, IRIS, THIS IS...
UM.

I'M IN
THE SYSTEM AS ERIC,
B-BUT I DON'T--

UH,
MORE RELEVANTLY, TWO
OF THE LITTLE ONES
HERE ARE *REALLY* MESSED
UP, AND..

AND I'M..

OH GOD,
THERE'S A TOOTH
EMBEDDED IN..

UM, ME AND TWO KIDS
ARE GONNA BE OVER THERE
IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

I THINK.

A-ALSO, I'M
WITH XS THIS QUARTER,
NOT LS.

.. OBVIOUSLY.

SINCE
IT'S,.. MIDNIGHT,
AND..

.. I'M
CALLING THEM
KIDS, AND..

.. CALLING
YOU, AND.. NOT
BOIKO.

WHO'S
DAY SHIFT

DURING
A DIFFERENT
DUMPIER

um.

Y-YEAH, OKAY. JUST T-TEXT ME WHEN YOU GET THIS, BYE.

SIRIUS, Y-YOU'RE GOING TO NEED SOME GAUZE AND AN ICE PACK FOR THAT, STAY HERE.

RRRRR!

OW!

GIVE ME YOUR ID I'LL GET THEM.

SURE, WHY NOT?

I MAY AS WELL *BREACH SECURITY* WHILE I'M KICKING KIDS IN THE FACE

YOU KNOW WHAT A FIRST-AID KIT IS, RIGHT?

YES.

GOOD, J-JUST GRAB THAT, AND AN ICE PACK FROM THE FREEZER

A- AND DON'T T-TOUCH MY BLOOD

WASH YOUR HANDS

I'M *SO* SORRY!

I MADE A DEAL WITH--

--AND IT WASN'T *SUPPOSED* TO--

--ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?

AQUILA, HURRY!

ORION, ARE YOU OKAY?

QUIET.

THITH WOULDN'T OF HAPPENED IF YOU DID YOUR JOB.

FINE. BLOCK ME OUT YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT

Ripper's tests are done. Please come get him.

Ignore the voicemail I left. Sirius, Orion and I are coming in 15

Too late. What was that?

I'm so sorry

Don't make it more awkward. I'll see you soon

We're here. Please!

ORION?

YEAH, WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BIT HIM BECAUTHE YOU GOT KICKED, TOO!!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BIT HIM.

BUT HE KICKED YOU.

WHOA, THLOW DOWN, WHAT?

NO?

LOOK, I DON'T *CARE* I GOT KICKED!

IT HURT, YEAH, BUT HE JUTHT *THTOOD THERE* AND *WATCHED*, AND THEN HE *KICKED* YOU, THO I--

AAAAAA

WHAT?

I-I FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING PICKED ON BY **YOU** NOW!

=SNIFF=

I-I KNOW IT'TH YOUR TOOTH.

I DIDN'T MEAN...

D-DON'T HATE ME, I--

I...

I MATH GOING TO ATTACK RIGEL.

BUT THEN I CHANGED MY MIND, BECAUTHE HE CAN'T DO WHAT WE CAN.

I DIDN'T WANNA HURT HIM.

I'M THORRY YOU'RE HURT BECAUTHE I'M AN IDIOT. IT'TH MY FAULT.

NO. I'M HURT BECAUTHE JAY ITH AN IDIOT. NOT YOU.

BUT HE ONLY KICKED ME THO I'D—

DON'T THTAND UP FOR HIM!

GUYS.

YOU'RE WAY TOO LOUD.

SHUT UP.

D'YOU THINK BEN WOULDA KICKED YOU LIKE THAT?

HE SHOULDA JUTHT HELPED YOU GET UP.

HE NEEDTH TO LEARN HE CAN'T DO THINGTH LIKE THAT, AND IF ME BITING HIM'LL TEACH HIM, THEN I'LL BITE HIM MORE.

AND I DON'T CARE IF I LOTHE MORE TEETH, EITHER.

I'LL KEEP BITIN' HIM UNTIL HE THTOPTH BEIN' A JERK.

Y'KNOW WHAT--

ALRIGHT, ERIC, I'M...

... OH, WOW, WHAT HAPPENED?

D-DON'T... UH.

H-HE BIT ME.

AND HE WOULDN'T LET GO.

SO I... GOD.

I KICKED HIS TOOTH OUT.

YOU WHAT?

ON ACCIDENT.

YOU TRACKED *BLOOD* ALL THE WAY DOWN THE...

WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE *ME* COME DOWN *THERE* IF THINGS WERE *THIS BAD?*

I CAN'T EVEN *DO* ANYTHING FOR *YOUR* INJURIES! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?

... CLEARLY, I WASN'T.

I KNOW I MESSED UP. I'LL DEAL WITH MYSELF LATER. JUST DO YOUR JOB.

JUST-- *REALLY!?*

I'M *REPORTING* THIS.

WHY?

YOU TOLD ME TO DO MY JOB, *RIGHT?*

SIRIUS, I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT.

PICK A TABLE.

YOU TOO, ORION.

H-HEY, UH.

P-PLEATHE DON'T GET YOURTHELF HURT OVER ME AGAIN, OKAY?

I'M NOT WORTH IT.

UM, YEAH YOU ARE.

YOU'RE MY FRIEND.